House Republican Press Release

March 22, 2005

Press Office: 860-240-8700

Sawyer Reminds Public About Managed Care Ombudsman



HARTFORD- Representative Pam Sawyer (R-Bolton) is reminding the public about the state's managed care ombudsman, who is there to help Connecticut residents with problems they might have with health insurance companies. The managed care ombudsman, Kevin Lembo, is also an advocate assisting uninsured and low

income or unemployed individuals with health insurance difficulties.

Lembo began his stint in December as managed care ombudsman, and helps patients get insurers to cover care that has been unfairly denied. His position is funded by the insurance industry, and is available to the public. His offices are within the State Department of Insurance.

"I want people to know that this is a great resource which is available to them if they are having difficulty with their HMO or health insurance provider," said Representative Sawyer. "I highly recommend that anyone needing this kind of assistance contact the Office of the Managed care Ombudsman directly."

The Office of the Managed Care Ombudsman can be reached toll-free at 1-866-HMO-4446. They can also be reached <u>on the Internet</u>.